



September 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

PROPOSED NON-TAX ITEMS IN BUDGET MEASURES ACT

VICTORIA — The *Budget Measures Implementation Act (No. 2), 2009*, tabled in the Legislature with the *September Budget Update 2009* is the legislative foundation for the initiatives announced in the budget, and includes both non-tax and tax measures.

The non-tax measures include:

- An amendment to the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* to extend the period during which deficit budgets can be presented to the Legislature from two to four years. This measure is needed to protect vital services in the face of significant reductions in revenue as a result of the current recession.
- Amendments to the *Tourism Act*, the *Tourism British Columbia Act*, the *Hotel Room Tax Act*, and the *Financial Information Act* that are needed to ensure the promotion of tourism is maintained and seamlessly transferred to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.
- Various housekeeping measures, including:
 - an amendment to the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* to ensure any *Supplementary Estimates* are automatically included in individual ministerial spending accountabilities and to limit accountabilities to voted appropriations;
 - an amendment to the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* to designate March 2, 2010, as the date for presenting Budget 2010 to the Legislature;
 - an amendment to the *Financial Administration Act* to award full status as voting members to private members that are appointed to Treasury Board; and,

- transitional provisions to designate the September *Estimates* as the new main estimates for 2009/10. The main estimates are referenced by various acts for planning and reporting purposes.

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For the Finance Minister's speech and more details on the *September Budget Update 2009*, visit www.bcbudget.ca.

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